



# Elephant FIRE UPDATE

**Fire Information: (540) 525-1539**

*USDA Forest Service  
George Washington & Jefferson  
National Forests  
Glenwood & Pedlar Ranger  
Districts*

**Tuesday, April 16, 2013  
8:00 p.m.**

<b>Location</b>	The Elephant Fire is located on Elephant Mountain, just east of Buena Vista, Virginia.
<b>Estimated Acreage</b>	Approximately 256 acres
<b>Containment</b>	70% contained
<b>Overview</b>	On Tuesday, April 16, 2013, firefighters continued containment and mop-up efforts on the Elephant Fire. Securing the rocky northern end and extinguishing interior hotspots remains the priority in the upcoming days. Rehabilitation of the dozer line on the west side of the fire began today, and will continue until complete. Demobilization of firefighting resources will begin tomorrow.
<b>Fire Cause</b>	The Elephant Fire was initially reported at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 14, 2013. The cause of the fire is under investigation
<b>Resources on the Fire</b>	Approximately 140 firefighters and support staff, including two Type 1 Hotshot Crews, one Type 2 Initial Attack Crew, two dozers, five engines, and a helicopter are assisting with the Elephant Fire.
<b>Closures</b>	No closures at this time
<b>Cooperators</b>	Virginia Department of Forestry, National Park Service, Buena Vista Fire Department
<b>Fire Weather</b>	<p>Tuesday Evening Weather: Partly cloudy this evening with additional clouds developing overnight. Low 59 degrees. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph. Maximum humidity, 69%.</p> <p>Wednesday Weather: Cloudy in the morning with scattered thunderstorms developing later in the day. Warm. High 81 degrees. Winds SW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40%. Minimum humidity, 60%.</p> <p>Wednesday Evening Weather: Scattered thunderstorms during the evening followed by a few showers overnight. Low 59 degrees. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40%. Maximum humidity, 61%.</p>
<b>General Fire Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety of the public and firefighters is always the number one priority when dealing with wildfires.</li> <li>• Over one mile of dozer line was completed on the west end of the fire to protect approximately 30 homes. Rehabilitation of this line will begin on Tuesday. No structures have been lost or damaged.</li> <li>• Smoke from the Elephant Fire may continue to be visible in Buena Vista and surrounding areas for several days.</li> <li>• Homeowners can learn how to make their homes less susceptible to wildfires by visiting: <a href="http://www.firewise.org">www.firewise.org</a>.</li> </ul>

**Contact:** Michael Williams, Public Information Officer: **(540) 525-1539**